

Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

Report
OF
School Medical Officer
FOR
1918.

Leamington Spa :

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April, 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the report on the work of the School Medical Department for the year 1918.

Difficulties engendered by the War have been nearly as great as in the previous year; now, however, as a result of the early prospect of Peace, the outlook appears much brighter, and one hopes at the end of 1919 to be able to show results which will be a source of satisfaction to your Committee.

There are three further factors which are bound in our future work to exercise a most beneficial effect: (1) The appointment of a whole time School Nurse; (2) The establishment of a Clinic for Minor Ailments; (3) The provision of Dental Treatment for the children. Only those who have worked in our Schools can really appreciate the extent to which the children are handicapped by these dental defects.

The effect which the new Education Act will have on your School Medical Department is not yet quite clear, save in one respect, the addition of a considerable number of duties.

My thanks are again due to my colleagues for many acts of kindly co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD.

TABLE I.
NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.

No.	Name of School.	Average Attend- ance.	Per- centage
1	Bath Place (C. of E.) Mixed	267	91
	„ Infants	92	78
2	Lillington (C. of E.) Mixed	98	93
	„ Infants	7	78
3	Wesleyan, Mixed	152	90
4	St. Paul's (C. of E.)	293	123
5	St. Peter's (R.C.) Boys	76	91
6	„ Girls	115	88
	„ Infants	87	87
		1187	
PROVIDED SCHOOLS.			
7	Clapham Terrace, Mixed	333	92
	„ Infants	202	86
8	Leicester Street, Boys	193	95
	„ Girls	216	92
	„ Infants	225	82
9	Milverton, Mixed	254	93
	„ Infants	146	88
10	Shrubland Street, Boys	190	94
	„ Girls	225	92
	„ Infants	200	88
		2184	

SCHEME OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The past year has been one of great difficulty, and it has been necessary, owing to the shortage of Medical Practitioners, for your School Medical Officer to undertake a large amount of extra work apart from his usual duties. This being the case, nothing remained but to give up temporarily the routine inspection of Code Groups and to undertake the inspection of such Ailing Children as were found by the School Nurse during her frequent routine visits to the Schools, supplemented by the Inspection Clinic, which was as crowded as usual. This arrangement, though it enables some of the work to be carried on, has naturally decreased the supervision of the children; however, under the circumstances then prevailing, this was inevitable, and it is hoped in the immediate future to make up as much leeway as may be possible by a complete survey of the children.

During the year under review the Committee decided to have the services of a whole time School Nurse. The position was advertised, and Miss M. E. Dykes was appointed. She has been at work since July 1st, and having regard to the difficult conditions has done very good service. This work has been the more valuable having regard to the War-time difficulties of the School Medical Officer.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying a tribute to the work of Miss Pierce. Since her appointment she has given her whole life to the interests of the children in the Borough. Early and late, Sunday and week-day, she has visited the children, advised the Mothers, and gained such an insight into their lives as it is given to few in this town to possess. I am sure that your Committee cannot but realise that without her assistance and self-sacrifice what little success has been attained in improving the health and surroundings of the children would not have been possible.

To the other extension of the School Medical Service, viz., the School Clinic, I shall refer later under the heading of Treatment.

TABLE II.
(TABLE I., B. OF E.)
CHILDREN EXAMINED, 1918.
A "CODE" GROUPS.

Age ...	Entrants.					Inter- mediate Group.	Leavers.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Girls ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—

B GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

	Intermediate Group. (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (i.e., No. of Children re-examined).
Boys ...	—	260	64
Girls ...	—	307	77
Totals	—	567	141

TABLE III.

(ABBREVIATED FORM OF TABLE II, B. OF E.)

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

Defect or Disease.					Code Groups.		Specials.	
					Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
1					2	3	4	5
Skin.	Malnutrition				—	—	—	—
	Uncleanliness—							
	Head				—	—	210	—
	Body				—	—	8	—
	{ Ringworm—							
	Head				—	—	53	—
	Body				—	—	22	—
	Scabies				—	—	47	—
Eye.	{ Impetigo				—	—	124	—
	Other Disease				—	—	12	—
Ear.	{ Defective Vision and Squint				—	—	8	—
	{ External Eye Disease ...				—	—	1	—
Teeth.	{ Defective Hearing				—	—	3	—
	{ Ear Disease				—	—	7	—
Nose and Throat.	Dental Disease				—	—	6	—
	{ Enlarged Tonsils				—	—	9	—
	{ Adenoids				—	—	5	—
	{ Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids				—	—	6	—
Heart and Circulation.	Defective Speech				—	—	—	—
	{ Heart Disease—							
	Organic				—	—	—	4
	Functional				—	—	—	—
Lungs.	Anæmia				—	—	4	—
	{ Pulmonary Tuberculosis—							
	Definite				—	—	12	—
	Suspected				—	—	2	5
Nervous System.	Chronic Bronchitis				—	—	6	4
	{ Other Disease				—	—	—	—
	{ Epilepsy				—	—	—	—
	{ Chorea				—	—	2	—
	{ Other Disease				—	—	—	—
	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis							
	Glands				—	—	—	—
	Bones and Joints				—	—	1	—
	Other Forms				—	—	—	—
	Rickets				—	—	—	5
	Deformities				—	—	—	1
	Other Defects or Diseases ...				—	—	—	—
Total ...					—	—	548	19

EYE DEFECTS.

In 1918 40 children were found to be suffering from Eye Defects, the majority of the cases having been carried over from the previous year.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

Comparative figures are not available, owing to no Code Inspection, but there is no doubt of the large number of children with defective teeth.

HEART DEFECTS.

In eight instances conditions were found such as to warrant a warning being sent to the Parents, and special instructions were given to the Teachers with respect to physical exercise, etc.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twelve children were seen at the School Clinic suffering from this disease, and have been kept under observation or have been sent to a Sanatorium. All cases are being seen by the Tuberculosis Officer.

There were also 7 children who attended the Clinic who appeared to be Pre-Tuberculous cases.

MENTAL CONDITION.

Eighteen children were found to be backward in their work; nine of these have joined the new Special Class established at Clapham Terrace, where they are in most cases showing a very marked improvement.

SCHOOL INSPECTION CLINIC.

The following Table shows:—(1) The experience of the Commoner Diseases; (2) The number of cases which have come to our notice.

TABLE IV.

TABLE OF COMMONER DISEASES, SHOWING NUMBER
OF CASES.

Disease.	Cases.
Ringworm (Head)	53
Impetigo	124
Tuberculous Disease	12
Pre-Tuberculous Conditions	7
Debility	19
Ringworm (Body)	22
Heart Defects	8
Chorea and Rheumatism	7
Colds, &c.	47
Gastric Conditions	15
Intestinal Diseases	20
Bronchitis, &c.	10
Enlargement of Cervical Glands	6
Sore Throat	29
Eye Diseases	7
Other Skin Diseases	12
Ear Diseases	14
Injuries	3
Scabies	47
Septic Conditions	23
Miscellaneous	27
Totals	515

N.B.—These figures do not include cases of Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, and Mumps.

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSE.

The following is a statistical return of the work of the School Nurse:—

Visits to Schools	528
Visits to Homes	1,640
Number of Children examined for Verminous Conditions	3,055

TABLE V.

RESULTS OF SCHOOL NURSE'S SURPRISE VISITS TO SCHOOLS
RE VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

SCHOOL.	DEPART- MENT	HEAD.		BODY.		TOTAL EXAMINED
		Vermin	Nits	Vermin	Bites	
CLAPHAM TERRACE	Boys	10	30	—	—	330
	Girls	60	141	—	—	320
LEICESTER STREET	Boys	8	23	—	—	396
	Girls	58	199	—	—	519
MILVERTON ...	Boys	—	8	—	—	198
	Girls	4	45	—	—	170
SHRUBLAND STREET	Boys	5	17	—	—	293
	Girls	11	150	—	—	330
LILLINGTON (C.E.)	Boys	—	—	—	—	52
	Girls	4	24	—	—	55
BATH PLACE (C.E.)	Boys	8	20	—	—	230
	Girls	20	115	—	—	355
ST. PAUL'S (C.E.)	Boys	4	5	—	—	273
	Girls	30	60	—	—	154
ST. PETER'S (R.C.)	Boys	4	13	—	—	113
	Girls	13	38	—	—	149
TOTALS ...		239	838	—	—	3937

The remarks made in past Reports as to the objectionable nature of the above work still hold true. None the less the work is essential, and has been cheerfully and efficiently carried out by Miss Pierce and her successor, Miss Dykes.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

The following Schools were closed on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health:—

CHICKEN POX.

Shrubland Street Infant Department, for 3 weeks from May 14th.

INFLUENZA.

Wesleyan, for 24 days from October 24th.

Bath Place C.E. Infant Department, for 31 days from October 24th.

Bath Place C.E. Mixed Department, for 22 days from October 26th.

St. Paul's Mixed and Infant Department, for 27 days from October 28th.

Clapham Terrace Boys', Girls' and Infants', for 17 days from October 31st.

Lillington C.E. for 17 days from October 31st.

St. Peter's (R.C.) Boys', Girls', and Infants', for 17 days from October 31st.

Leicester Street Boys', Girls' and Infants', for 24 days from October 31st.

Milverton Mixed, for 17 days from October 31st.

Milverton Infants' Department, for 24 days from October 31st.

TABLE VI.

CASES OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL,
JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1918.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.*	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTALS.
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	2	1	...	2	12
Scarlatina... ..	1	1	7	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	16
Diphtheria ...	...	3	2	6	1	4	1	...	4	2	...	1	24
Whooping-Cough	15	9	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	39
Measles	...	...	2	1	...	2	4	...	3	1	...	...	13
Chickenpox ...	...	31	26	2	75	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Ringworm ...	4	3	3	14	3	5	11	...	12	3	7	21	86
Impetigo	16	11	12	10	13	15	2	...	4	9	7	12	111
Scabies	9	6	1	2	15	3	...	...	6	7	...	8	47
German Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	13	33	8	12	66
TOTALS	46	64	61	40	97	34	18	...	43	58	24	60	551

* Schools not open this month.

It will be noted that Measles has been comparatively absent from the Schools, but this was more than made up by the prevalence of Chicken Pox, Mumps, and especially Influenza. Scabies has been prevalent throughout the year, and has been the cause of much lost attendance at School.

TREATMENT.

Table VII. gives figures showing the amount of curative or palliative work carried out as the result of our work. Undoubtedly much remains to be done, but at the time of writing the prospects are much improved, and with the staff now available it is hoped to show a considerably better result for 1919. The following up of cases has formerly been our difficulty, but this will to some extent be solved by the appointment of Miss Dykes in a whole time capacity.

THE PROVISION OF TREATMENT.

The School Clinic has now (April, 1919) been established and commenced work. Already the advantage can be appreciated in the number of children who are relieved in a fraction of the time formerly necessary. A full statement on this matter, however, more properly belongs to the Annual Report for 1919, but one cannot help but sound a note of triumph that numerous difficulties looming so large in the way have at last been surmounted.

TABLE VIII.

(TABLE V., B. OF E.)

AREA: ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &c., OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child) | ... | ... | 567 |
| (2) | The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness | | | |

TABLE VII.
(TABLE IV., B. OF E.)

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Per-centage of defects treated.
	From previous year,	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged.		
Clothing ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Footgear ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head ...	—	210	210	—	210	210	—	—	—	100
Cleanliness of Body ...	—	8	8	—	8	8	—	—	—	100
Nutrition ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat ...	50	6	56	11	27	18	9	—	18	48
External Eye Disease ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	100
Ear Disease ...	4	7	11	2	9	3	4	2	—	85
Teeth ...	48	6	58	13	28	23	5	—	17	48
Heart and Circulation ...	5	8	13	—	13	—	9	4	—	100
Lungs ...	—	5	5	—	5	—	5	—	—	100
Nervous System ...	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Deformities ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—nonpulmonary ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Speech ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Condition ...	—	18	18	—	18	—	—	18	—	100
Vision and Squint ...	32	8	40	13	15	10	5	—	12	37
Hearing ...	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	—	1	66
Miscellaneous ...	—	9	9	—	9	1	7	1	—	100
Total ...	141	295	438	39	345	275	45	25	51	75

- or defective clothing or footgear) who
require to be kept under observation
(but not referred for treatment) ... 19
- (3) The number of children in (1) who were
referred for treatment (excluding un-
cleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ... 330
- (4) The number of children in (3) who
received treatment for one or more
defects (excluding uncleanness, de-
fective clothing, etc.) 104
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